

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2011 – Week 1

Air Date: May 29 – June 4 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE SENIOR SENATOR

JUNE 1941 AND SAM HOUSTON'S BOY GOES TO WASHINGTON.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 2, 1941. WASHINGTON D.C. ALMOST A CENTURY AGO, SAM HOUSTON CAME HERE AS THE FIRST SENATOR FROM TEXAS. NOW, AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF 88, HIS BOY, ANDREW JACKSON HOUSTON, WILL BE SWORN IN AS THE VERY SENIOR, JUNIOR SENATOR FROM TEXAS.

IT WAS GOVERNOR PAPPY LEE O'DANIEL'S IDEA. ALWAYS A SHOWMAN, O'DANIEL APPOINTED THE FEEBLE SCION TO FILL A VACANCY FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF SENATOR MORRIS SHEPARD. O'DANIEL WANTS HOUSTON TO HOLD THE SEAT FOR A FEW MONTHS UNTIL HE HIMSELF CAN RUN FOR THE OFFICE.

BARELY ABLE TO MAKE THE JOURNEY, HOUSTON ATTENDS ONE COMMITTEE MEETING, THEN DIES. O'DANIEL RUNS FOR THE SEAT AND IS SWORN IN A FEW MONTHS LATER.

SAM'S BOY BECAME SENATOR – SORT OF – 70 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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George N. Green, "HOUSTON, ANDREW JACKSON," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fho69>), accessed April 05, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

List of Texas Senators, Wikipedia website, accessed 4/7/11
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Senators_from_Texas

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